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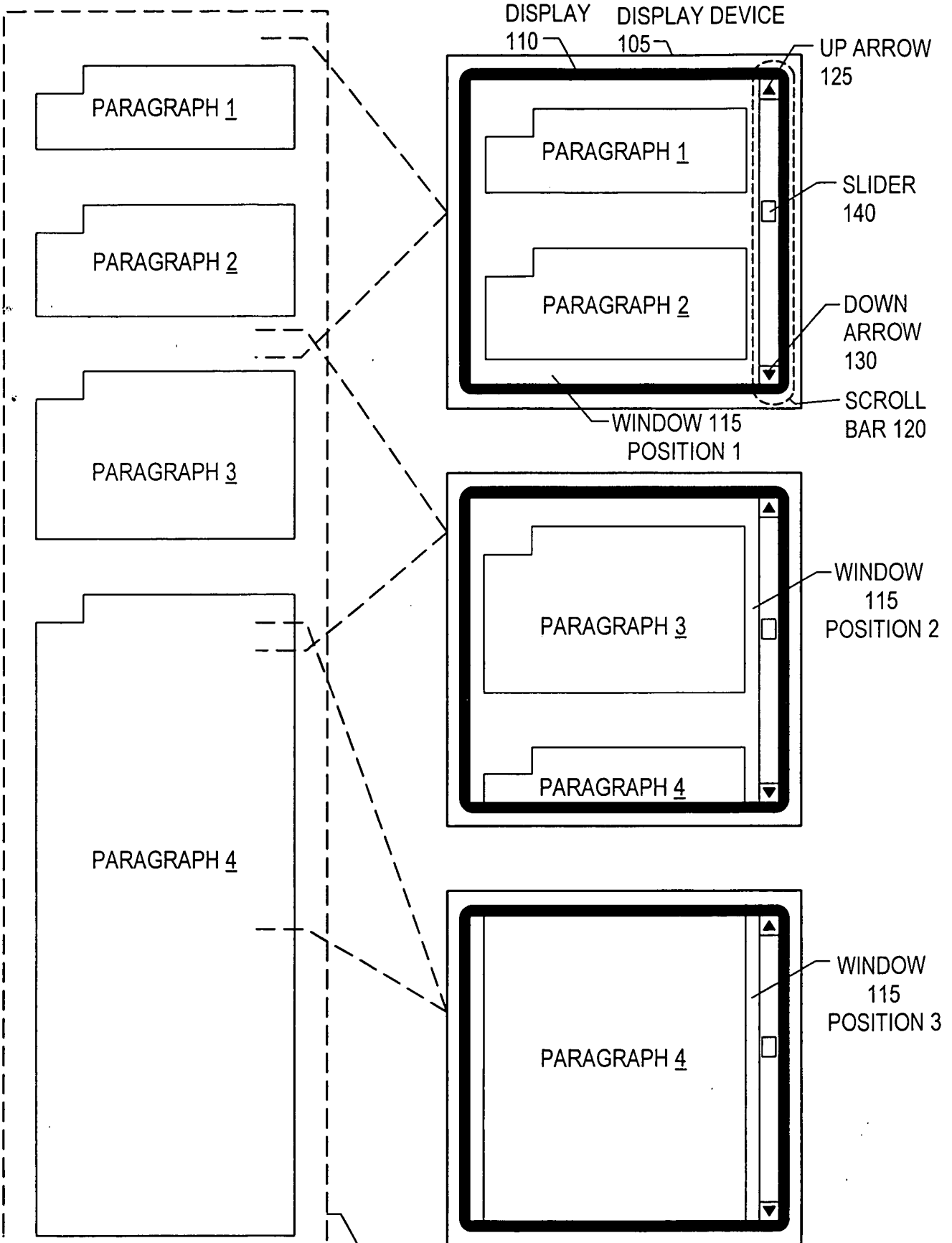


FIG. 1 (PRIOR ART)

FIG. 2A

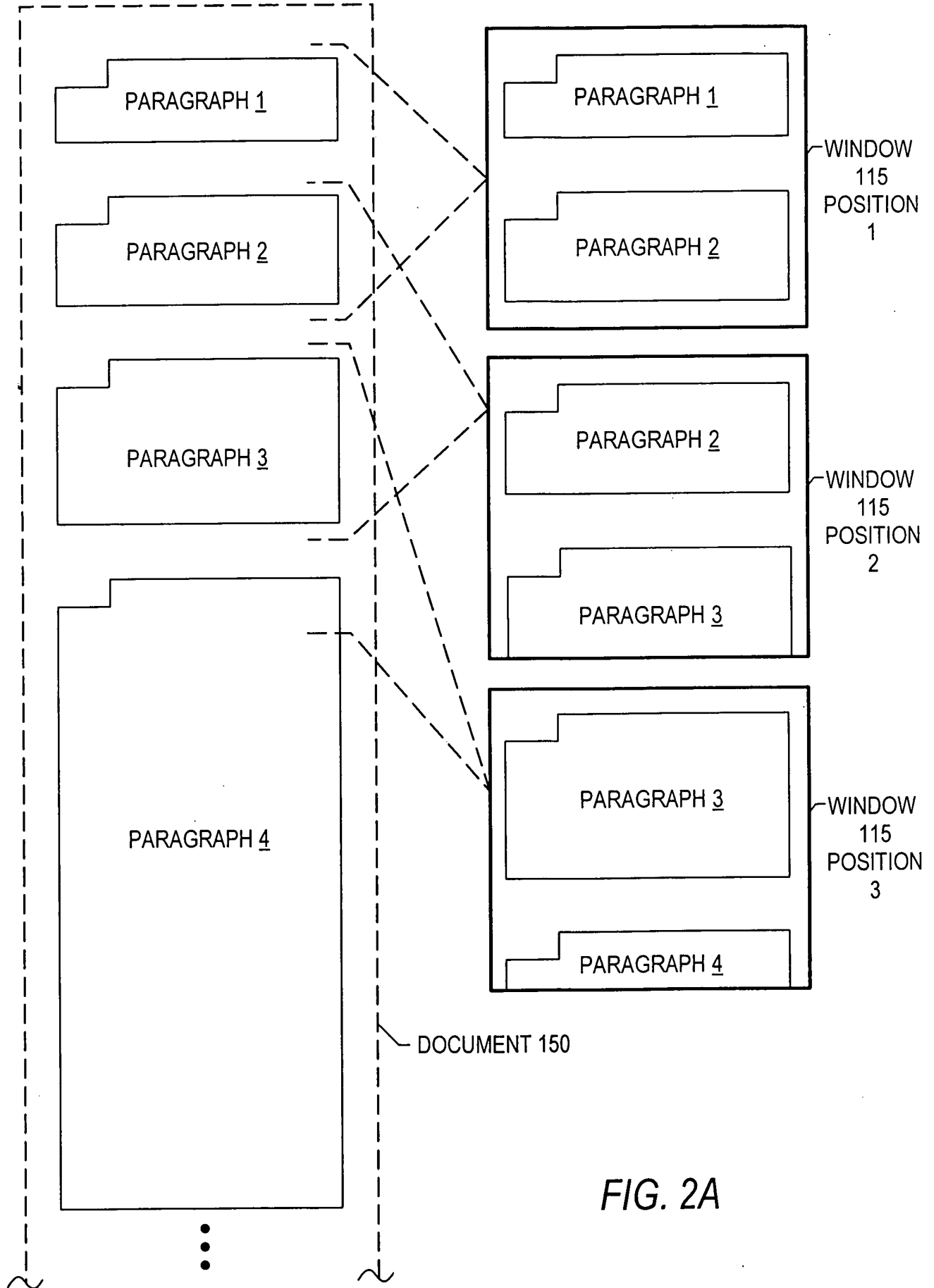
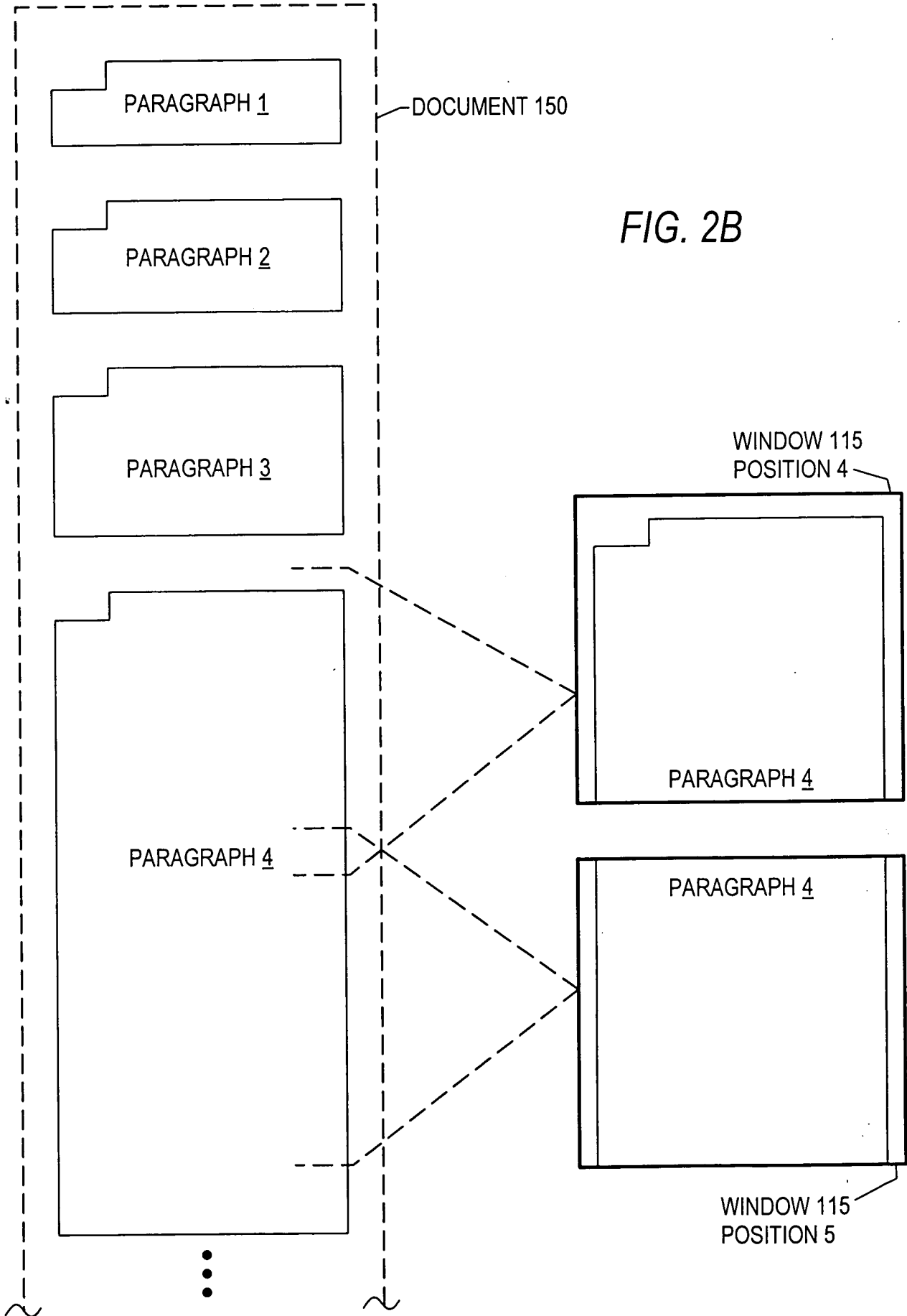


FIG. 2B



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user is not forced to enter a lengthy URL nor retrace the original tortuous route through the Internet by which he may have arrived at the Web site. Once a bookmark is added to a bookmark list, in general, the bookmark becomes a permanent part of the browser until removed. The permanence and accessibility of bookmarks have made them a valuable means for personalizing a user's Internet access through the browser.

Yet despite their usefulness, the current arrangement of bookmarks is not without its flaws. As the numbers of web sites and web pages on these sites have increased dramatically, so has the number of bookmarks that a typical web browser user maintains on his browser. It is not uncommon that hundreds of bookmarks be stored in a bookmark file after a few weeks of web browsing. While folders in some browsers have helped the user group his bookmarks by category, in reality, the bookmark file is one huge list of bookmarks, all accessible to the user through the browser. The most common way of adding bookmarks to the bookmark file or a particular bookmark folder in the browser is manually intensive. Each bookmark is added one at a time. Furthermore, the current technology used in browsers to update bookmarks, i.e. removing the old address and entering the new one, is very slow and inefficient. Another problem with retrieving information on the Internet is the amount of time required to sift through the enormous amount of information available to find the relatively few web pages or files of interest. Search engines help to a degree, but user's respective facility with constructing search queries differ greatly. A substantial amount of user time is required to refine search strategies and compile and discard results and so forth.

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WINDOW 115  
POSITION 301

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FIG. 3A

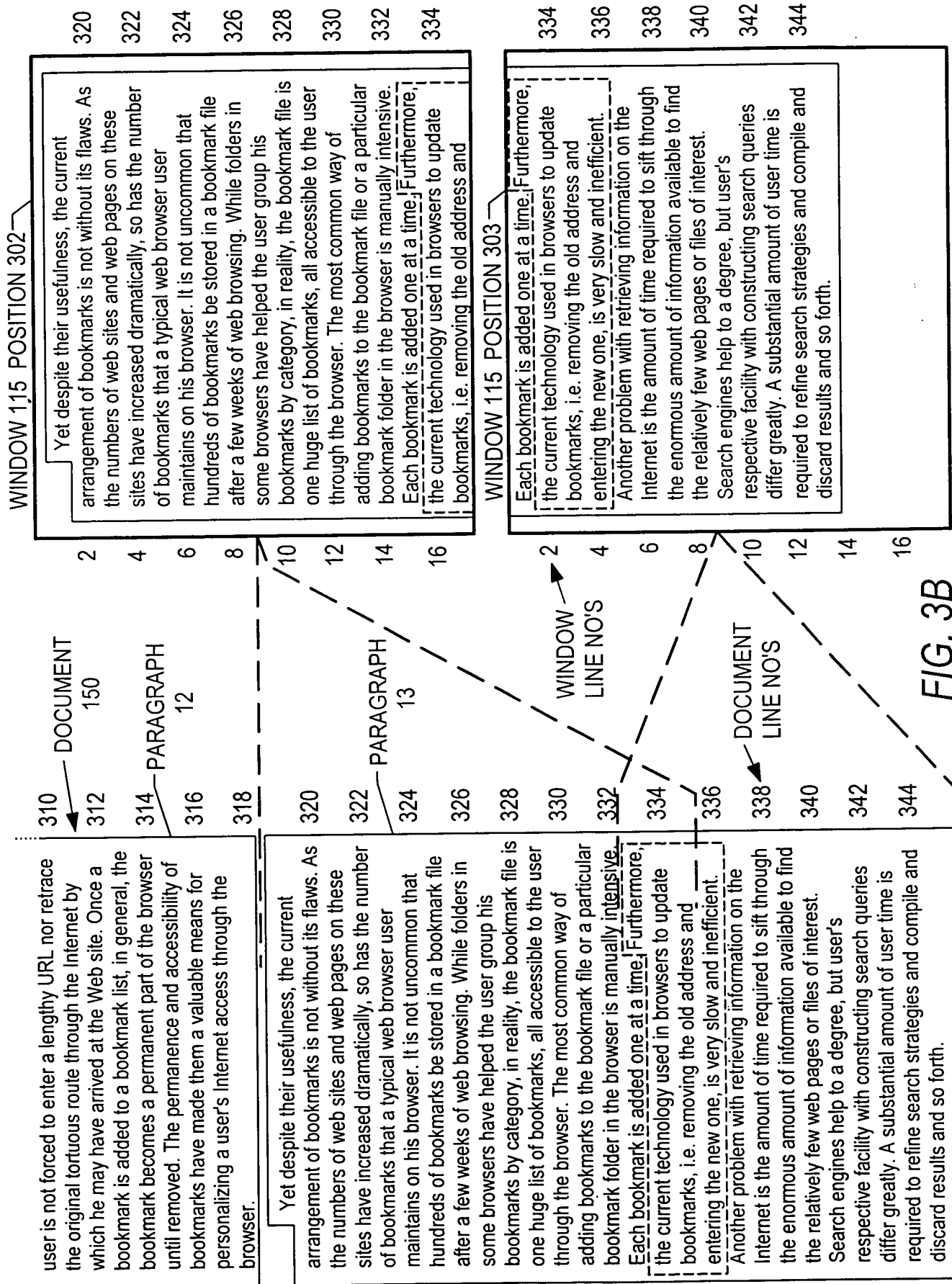


FIG. 3B

WINDOW 115 POSITION 401

A WWW page may have text, graphic (still) images, and even multimedia objects such as sound recordings or moving video clips. A hypertext page, if more than just text, is usually constructed by loading several separate files, e.g., the hypertext file "main.html" might include a reference to a graphic image file "picture.gif" or to a sound file "beep.wav". When a client workstation 12 sends a request to a server for a page, such as page 16a, the server first transmits (at least partially) the main hypertext file associated with the page, and then loads, either sequentially or simultaneously, the other files associated with the page. A given file may be transmitted as several separate pieces via TCP/IP protocol. The constructed page is then displayed on the workstation monitor 18 as shown in FIG. 2.

WINDOW 115 POSITION 402

A page may be "larger" than the physical size of the monitor screen (i.e., larger than the software-programmed "window" provided for viewing the page), and techniques such as scroll bars are used by the viewing software (the web browser) to view different portions of the page. Selection of a hypertext link sometimes opens a new (second) browser window to receive the requested page.

One problem that frequently occurs during navigation of a web site relates to the repetitious and slow process of viewing multiple links within a web page. For example, a user might want to review several chapters of a book or instruction manual that is provided on the WWW in the form of a main page that acts as a table of contents, and many other pages which each constitute one of the chapters of

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FIG. 4

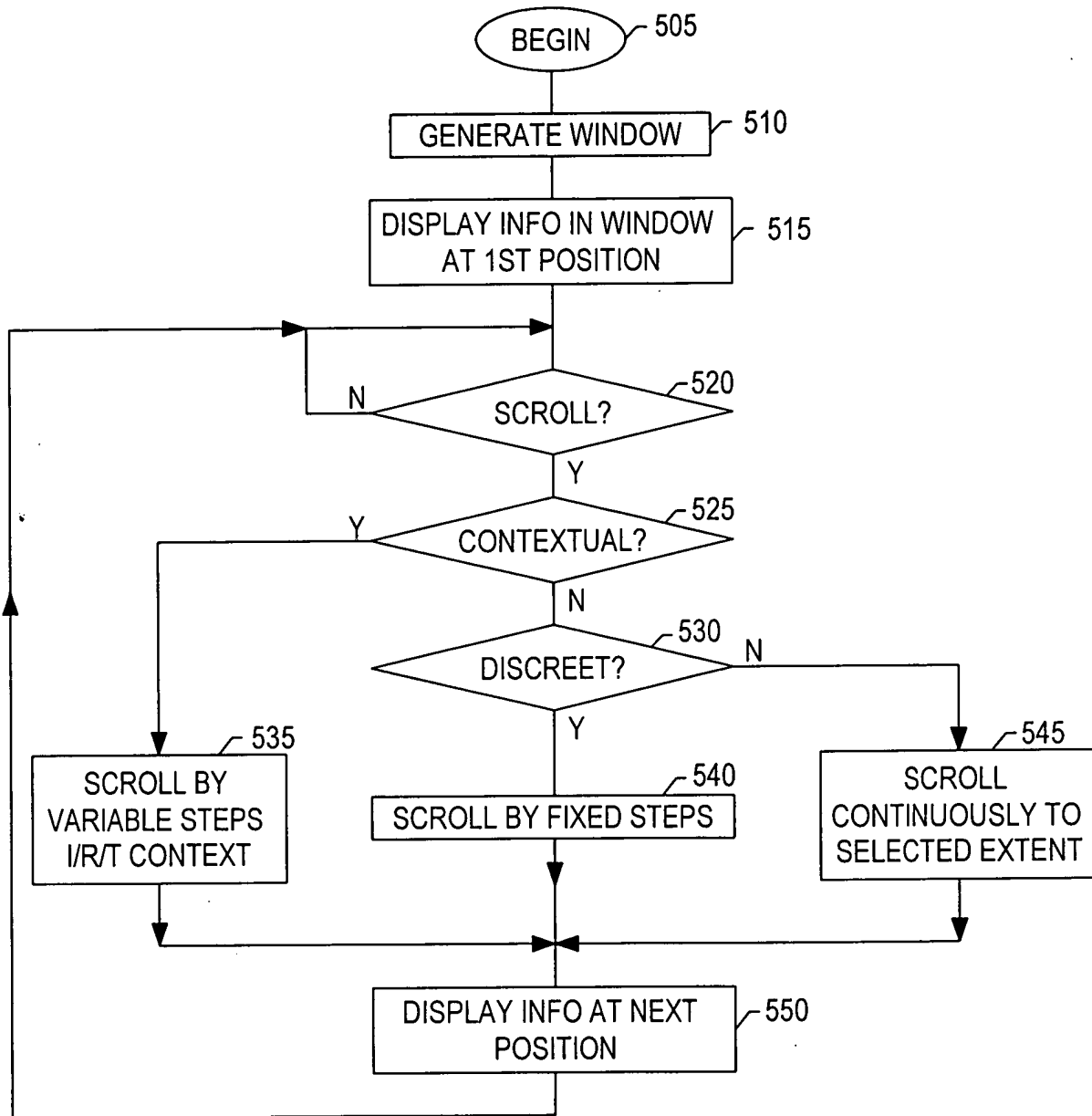


FIG. 5

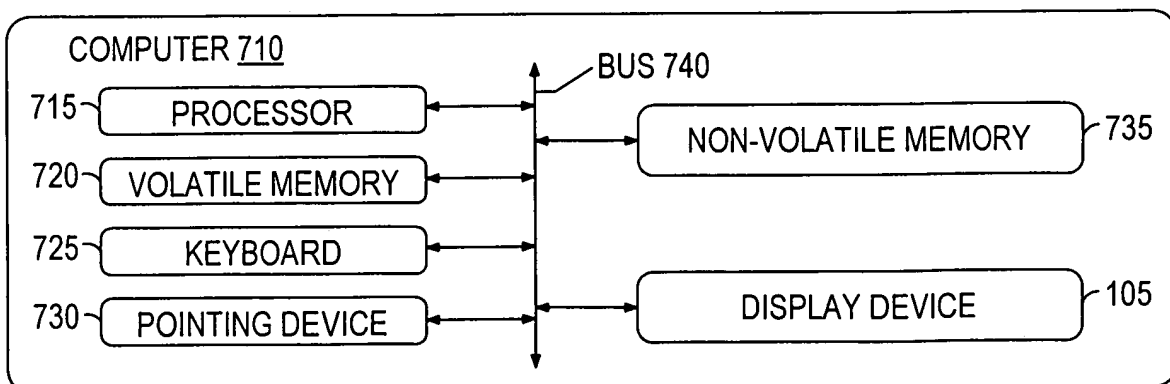
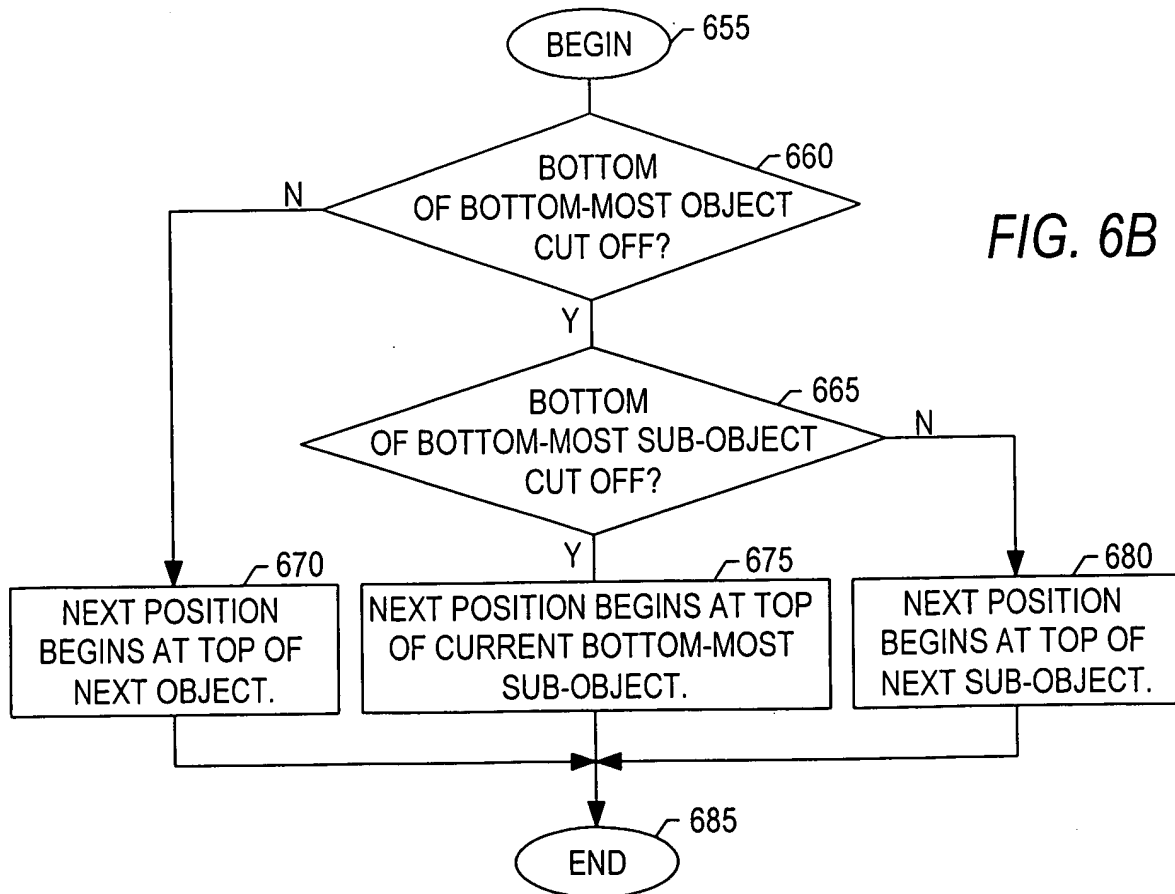
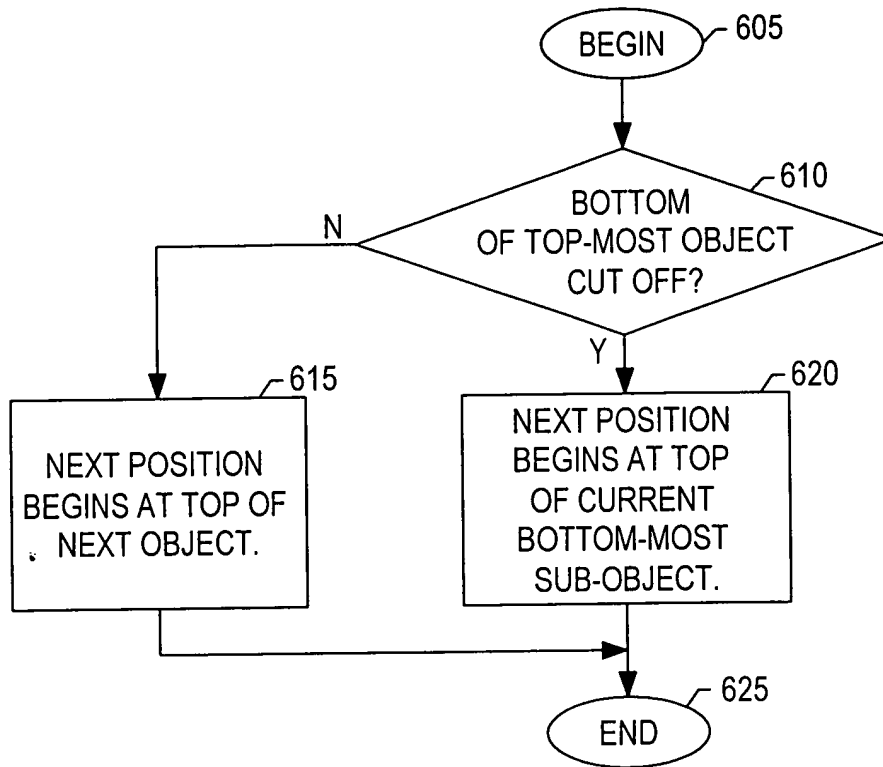


FIG. 7



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